

The Black Mirror of News

Reflections

50¢

or

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VOL. 6, NO. 6 • JUNE/JULY 2001

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AUDREY H. WEST
FAREWELL, but...



not good-bye
A GREAT LADY RETIRES

– see page 13

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

Photos of the “After Party” –
**EAST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL
CELEBRATING 110 YEARS**

– see pages 10 & 11

43rd Annual Awards Breakfast...
Frontiers International

– see pages 12 & 13

To love my people shouldn't imply I hate others ...

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

NEW JERSEY EDITION

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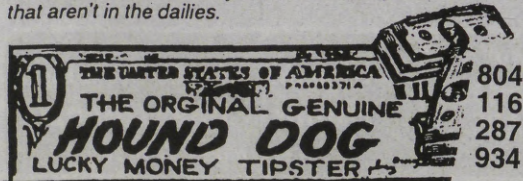
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY-ELECTED MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY GLENN CUNNINGHAM



THE CITY OF NEWARK welcomed His Majesty

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II

Occupant of the Golden Stool the Sixteenth
Asantehene of The Asante Kingdom

The Asantehene (king) of The Asante Kingdom

is a royal lineage that dates back to the end of the seventeenth century when King Osei Tutu transformed the confederacy of Asante states into an empire with its capital in Kumasi. Stools the symbol of sovereign leadership already functioned as traditional symbols of chieftainship, but the Golden Stool of Asante represented the united spirit of all the allied states.



POLLY TICKS



This column – which is exclusive to *The Black Mirror News* will bring the “truth” to our community when others “lie.”

Setting the Record Straight

In this column *The Black Mirror News* will reprint letters it receives that correct previously published ‘opinions’ that are distortions of fact. It is very difficult to disprove a negative, but Mayor Sharpe James’ letter to the *New York Times* goes a long way in correcting a lie.

May 24, 2001

Ms. Linda Ocasio

The New York Times

229 West 43rd Street New York, New York 10036

Dear Ms. Ocasio:

I have read your detailed article in the *May 13, 2001 New York Times* entitled “Of a City In Transition,” and was concerned and disturbed by some serious omissions that marred the story.

While your article is very quick to point up what it perceives as failures of the administration to address the city’s issues, it does not point up the very same achievements of that administration in the past 16 years, which are now being realized. When I took office in 1986, and began proposing the development of Society Hill, Science Park, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and Riverfront Stadium, the nay-sayers and critics said these projects would never be built. Yet, thanks to our dedication, professionalism, partnerships, and our faith in Newark and her people, they have become exciting realities.

I might add that about 10 years ago, the *New York Times* ran an article with a similar picture and conclusion about a Newark neighborhood, painting it as blighted. I said then that the area was earmarked for development, and today it is Society Hill at University Heights and Science Park. I have always said that “promises made should be promises kept.”

While your article quoted at length from New Community Corporation, it omitted the successes many other important builders, like J.P. Affordable, Alpert and Alpert, American Dream, and a host of church groups, which have been building affordable homes in Newark since 1992, with great success.

Nor did your article mention that Newark has built and rehabilitated more properties in creating safe, decent, and affordable neighborhood housing and rentals than any city in the State of New Jersey. Indeed, we have built more houses than the second, third, and fourth largest cities in New Jer-

sey combined! That is not the record of a city that is ignoring its problems. That is the record of a city that is working to address its problems and serve its residents.

Your article also did not give any credit to the Newark Housing Authority, which has built quality townhouses in every neighborhood. Under its former executive director, Harold Lucas, the Newark Housing Authority gained awards and national recognition for its achievements in replacing outdated housing projects with beautiful town homes. Lucas’ work was so successful, that he was named Undersecretary of Public and Indian Housing by the Clinton administration. Today he serves as Newark’s Business Administrator.

When you called seeking information and an interview, I gave you both, and the names of people to interview. You did not interview one person who accepted our offer to tour all the neighborhoods and learn firsthand what we have accomplished. We gave you the facts and showed you our achievements. We told the story of a city and an administration that made the tough decisions, kept its faith, dreamed the dreams, and built for the future. That future is happening now, and it is continuing to happen.

Yes, we still have issues. Yes, we are not perfect. But to say that our efforts here are benefiting a wealthy few at the expense of a deserving many is very wrong. We have done better than that. And I believe your article should have done better than that, as well.

Sincerely yours,

Sharpe James
Mayor

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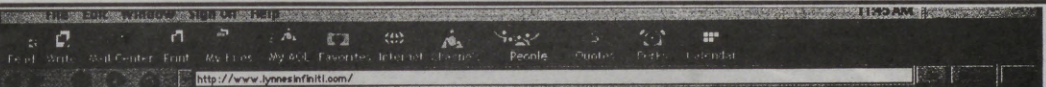
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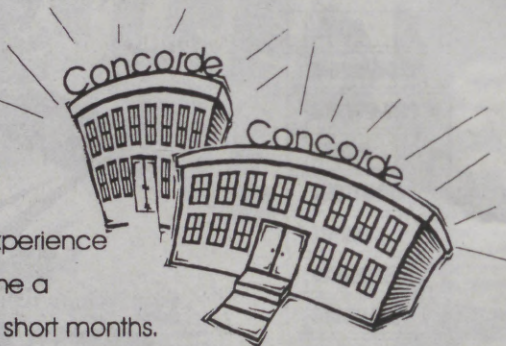
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THE AFTER PARTY...

The Closing Celebration of East Orange High School as it merges with Clifford J. Scott High School, saw a tremendous turnout of over 2,000 alumni honoring 110 years of "Red and Blue" tradition. And to make the weekend complete, a open house "After Party" was given by alumnus Ms. Shirley Hendricks, at her home in Orange, NJ. Attended by folks from as far away as California, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Washington, DC., Florida, etc.



Elaine Friday, Allan Barnhardt (Orange City Council president), and Harriette White Jackson of Hartfield, VA, share reminiscences.

Ray Paris, Jewel Griner, and Larry Anderson (So. Orange), enjoying the proceedings.



Media specialist Tommy Finch (Chicago, IL), greeting and our gracious hostess, Shirley Hendricks.



Viola Williams Small, Ronald and Thelma Vannoy (Orange, NJ) catching up on old times.

Alumni Barbara Jones Glover, Earl West, Brenda Lovett Florence and Bill Smith (Orlando, FL) relaxing on the sun porch.





Brenda Lovett Florence, Rochelle Preston and Howard Bragg (Tuskegee Airman), all smiles.



John Lee (Woody's) and Ida Bolden enjoying the food and conversation.



Ida Hayman and Doug Munford (Irvington) enjoy a dance.



Patricia Hayes McReynolds and Raymond Paris (Durham NC) pose for the camera.



Carolyn Carson Duke (Maplewood) and Ralph Wright (East Orange) just a couple of alumni.



Norma Jean Smith (Orlando, FL) and Faith Gideon Brown (Orange) catching up on the news.



Betty Smalls (Great Falls, VA), Elayne Friday (East Orange), Bill Bittings (Orange) and Viola Williams Small meeting and greeting everyone.

43rd ANNUAL AWARDS BREAKFAST

FRONTIERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. NEWARK CLUB

held at the Robert Treat Hotel, B. Curtis Grayson acted as Program Chairman along with Fred Stalks. The honorable Councilman of Irvington, Wayne Smith was Master of Ceremonies, East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser was the Guest Speaker...



CALVIN D. WEST

Distinguished Service Awardee
presented by Stephen Stalks



FRED SHAW

Frontiersman of the Year
presented by Hon. Leonard Gilbert



L'TANYA WHEELER WILLIAMSON

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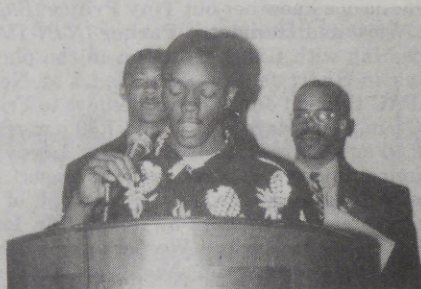
Awardees, Lennie Gilbert, Curtis Stalks, Kokhita Bulger, Fred Shaw, Calvin West, Linda J. Holmes, L'Tanya Williams, Esak Crawley, Tyrone Garrett, B. Curtis Grayson, and Calvin Pearson



TYRONE GARRETT

Youth Service Awardee

presented by the
Hon. Wayne Smith, Irvington, NJ



ESAK CRAWLEY

Scholarship Awardee



LINDA JANET HOLMES

Achievement Awardee

Newly installed members of
Newark Frontiers – Hon. Wayne
Smith, Dennis Vordarsik,
Felica Crews and Robert Blue.



KOKHITA BULGER

Scholarship Awardee



AUDREY H. WEST

As Executive Director of the Newark Preschool Council, Ms. West led an agency that is on the cutting edge of the national movement to develop family advocacy and sound educational beginnings for our children as they begin their successful journeys toward good citizenship.

She was the first African American to serve in the positions of Director of the Newark Division of Public Welfare ('68-'78), Deputy Director and Director of the NJ State Division of Public Welfare in the Dept. of Health and Human Services ('78-'88) and she was also Special Assistant of the Commissioner in the New Jersey State Dept. of Personnel ('88-'99)

Photos by Felix Middleton

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AFTER HOURS

Melba Moore walking thru the Robert Treat hotel lobby, no one knew her but **Tiny Prince** (*Black Mirror News*) and **Henrietta Parker** (*NJN-TV*). She's appearing with **Cissy Houston** in the play "Your Arms to Short to Box with God," at Newark's **NJPAC** through June 30 Wednesdays to Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50.... **Leroy Metz's** retirement party last week t'was a swinger... **Gwen Sanford** was appointed to the NJ Dept. of Education and feted at **Iberia's** by **Rev. & Mr. Levin B. West Sr.** of the **Grace West Early Childhood Learning Center** on Avon Ave in Newark, NJ...congratulations are in order to **Eluis (Honey) Ward** who was married a couple of weeks ago to longtime love, **Julia Morgan**... **Jan Williams** leaving walking from 110 Williams Street looking as radiant as ever... **James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home** has been in business over a hundred and one years... Homegrown celebrities come back to Newark in droves - (smiles)... like **Dionne Warwick** was here in June with **Ja-Rule, Ill-One**, two of the young great artists plus **Roy Dean Johnson Jr.** the outstanding national scholar from our **Newark High School Leadership Organization**. The Honorable **Sharpe James Educational Task Force** made all of this possible with the mayor leading the charge with **Tamika Riley** as mistress of ceremonies... Late or early - it's still orchids to **WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM** radio station on their new venture at 54 Park Place, Newark... **Bag Ladies** have an amazing tour to **Bangkok, Thailand** call **Sharon 312-951-0951** the **Bag Ladies** are: **Judi Hawkins, Carrie Doves**

and **Janet Fizer**... FYI: **Tiny Prince** is not **The Shadow**, please note!... The **East Orange High School Football Banquet** at the Robert Treat Hotel had among its guests, TV & movie star **John Amos** and **Earl Williams** the politician... **First Friday East's** affair, had more than enough attractive young beauties like **Rose, Equale, Donna**... **Shimmy and Shake** at the **Onyz Club** t'was a beautiful night despite the heavy rain... It's so nice to see one of our advertisers doing such a great job for their customers: having dinner last Saturday evening at **Crockett's Fish Fry Shoppe**, 162 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair, NJ., the place was packed with folks wanting take-away dinners piled high with some of the freshest fish, scallops, clam strips, etc. And it was a family affair with No. 1 son taking telephone orders and organizing the take-away orders for packing up, and mom and dad working to keep the flow of orders going - they're best in the state! Check 'em out soon.

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FALLING LEAVES

BERNICE HATTER-WEBBER

in Los Angeles, California on March 7th, 2001

Retired from the VA after thirty years service. Was the social writer for the NJ Afro American for several years as well as one of the founders of "After Hours News" along with her late husband the renowned writer Harry B. Webber, Carl J. Brinson and Al Madison. Bernice was very active in the community and an executive of the National Council of Negro Women as well as the recipient of many honors. She leaves to mourn a son, Harry Webber, two grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

ARTHUR C. THORNHILL, MD, 105 of Montclair

He will be remembered as "Doc" by all who knew him. Dr. Thornhill was intricately involved in the community, served on the Essex County Welfare Board and a founding member of Alpha Phi Alpha Graduate Chapter in Montclair. He was one of the first African American physicians on the Medical Staff of Mountainside Hospital. He is survived by a daughter Frances Morris, son-in-law, four grandchildren, and his wife Gay as well as other relatives and friends.

WHITMAN MAYO, 70

'Grady' on 'Sanford and Son'
"Good goobly goop!"

Whitman Mayo, the actor who made that phrase part of the 1970s American lexicon as Grady Wilson, the gray-bearded sidekick of Redd Foxx on television's popular "Sanford and Son," has died.



Mayo who had continued to take occasional roles and was teaching drama at Clark Atlanta University, died in suburban Atlanta.

He most recently appeared as a minister in the HBO television movie "Boycott." He also hosted a weekly television show for Atlanta's Turner South called "Liars & Legends."

Despite his relative steady success, Mayo never trusted acting to pay the rent. In 1975, in the middle of his long "Sanford" run, he started a travel agency in Inglewood, Calif., to guarantee financial stability.

In 1994, Mayo moved to Fayetteville, GA, near Atlanta.

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**Newark Mayor
Shrpe James
speaks about
Harold Lucas on
Martin Luther
King Award Nite.**



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Harold Lucas
Business Dir.
for the city of
Newark, Mrs.
Emmy Lucas,
Commisioner
Cartwright
and Harold's
mom.**



Mrs. Alford, Larrie W. Stalks and Mrs. Adubato.



... a guest.
(we didn't get
her name)



Mrs. Emmy Lucas and William McNeely, aide to
East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser chat.



Darryl Jeffries, Henry C. Johnson of
City News and East Orange Mayor
Robert Bowser.



Director Harold
Lucas and
Comissioner
Larry Hazzard



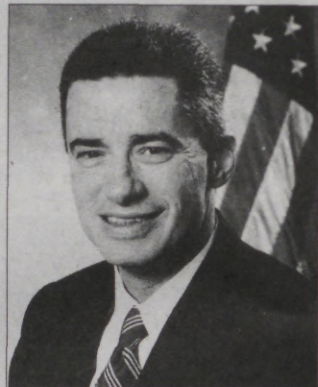
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SPECIAL EDUCATION AWARD



Born and raised in the city of Newark until the age of 15. Gwen attended Peshine Avenue and Weequahic High Schools. Her college studies were at Essex County College and Upsala College, East Orange, she attained a BA Degree. Masters Degree in Special

Education/International Studies at Kean College, Union NJ and the University of Nairobi in Kenya, East Africa. Additional postgraduate work was done at Montclair State, Jersey City State and Rowan College. State certified teacher, grades K-12, and additional certification in Education Research & Dissemination (ER&D), from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Future attainment: Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology/International Urban Studies.

Currently a teacher within the Newark Public School System Gwen has been on staff at University High School for 16 years. In that time she has had tremendous impact on many students lives and brought Presidential acclaim to one of her Special Needs Students. She has cumulatively spent 21 years in the educational system within New Jersey. Her primary focus is Special Needs Students. She has developed a rapport with parents, students, elected officials and activists who believe that "it takes a village to raise our children". The initiation of a program in Ethnic Awareness quelled a demand for inclusion in teaching Black History at University High School. It elevated the awareness and relationships of all ethnic groups within the school. She has added to the cultural symbolism of "Kente" by presenting an original piece to Governor Whitman, which she wore the night that she won the election. It has since been reflected in the Governor's Diversity initiatives as reflected within "Many Faces, One Family". Gwen collaborated with the Newark Museum and several Newark schools on the "Kente Project," which has received worldwide acclaim. She has piloted many educational programs with the Special Education Department and worked on two Strategic Planning teams within the Board of Education Senior Staff Administrators.

Her community work includes a seat on the Essex County College Trustee Board as Chair. Inclusive of her work as Legislative Ambassador for the statewide organization of (ACCT) Association of Community College Trustees in Trenton and Washington, D.C. Personal statement: She owns/manages/designs a small personalized business centered on the art of the Kente cloth. They create trips to the motherland for students and teachers.

(START) Students & Teachers in Africa Searching Together. Gwen feels that she represents the best of what Newark is about. She is the Renaissance that is often alluded to and epitomizes the lifting of consciousness' and educational pursuits that is indigenous of all the students that were and are in Newark. She also represents the best that Newark's Schools and Essex County College have been able to produce throughout the years, as she is a by-product of both.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please continue to send out your thoughts and prayers for the speedy recovery of one of our own, **MR. HILTON DAVIS**. He's making progress slowing but surely everyday at University Medical and Dental Hospital on Bergen Street, Newark, NJ.

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June 27, 7 pm 'FAST KINE' (2000)

Guest speaker: Samba Gadjigo

Women's lives in contemporary Dakar, Senegal, are the focus of this film directed by Ousmane Sembene. The Newark Museum, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St.

July 11, 7 pm 'MEN OF HONOR' (2000)

Guest speaker: Carl Brashear

This film stars Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert De Niro, and chronicles the life of Carl Brashear, the first African-American naval master diver.

Newark Symphony Hall, 1020 Broad St.

July 18, 7 pm 'BLIND FAITH' (1998)

Guest speaker: Ernest R. Dickerson

Directed by Ernest R. Dickerson, the film is about the arrest of a Bronx African-American police officer's son for the murder of a white boy. The film stars Charles S. Dutton. NJIT, University Hall, 99 Summit St.

Aug. 1, 7 pm 'WAY PAST COOL' (2000)

Guest speakers: Jess Mowry and Ira Deutchman

A coming of age story told in reverse about a group of young black kids and their fight to reclaim their childhood. Loews Cineplex Newark Metroplex 6, 360-394 Springfield Ave

Aug. 8, 7 pm - two films: "FINAL ACT" (2000) &

"AMERICAN DREAM" (1996) call (973) 596-6500 for location.

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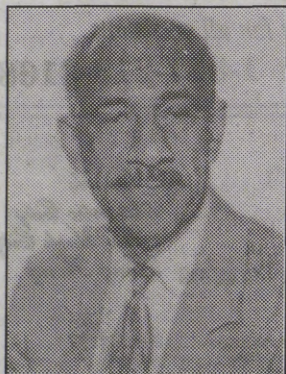
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SHADOW KNOWS...

The Shadow says "WATCH OUT!" it's summertime and the bad drivers are out on the road - using their "cellies," driving too fast and running stop signs! You can just about bet that when the light switches from green to red, at least five cars will speed through the red light before one of them decides to stop. Be careful folks... Some more advice to the young brothers out there who think the streets are like the wild west movies they see - doing drivebys and using their guns to get attention. Remember, the death penalty is on the books and it won't be long before you'll have to pay the piper for your actions. When they give you that last shot in your arm (see *Tim McVeigh*) it'll be the highest high you'll ever get and we'll say "see ya!" Note to those of you who might get lucky and escape the death penalty: lets say you get thirty years with no parole; After about twenty years the family stops coming to visit and you get no mail for five or six years... the man might just start looking at that firm body of

yours for "body parts" for the rich and famous - think about it... yo!... Question? I've heard that "pants sagging" on some young men is their way of allowing "easy access" - if you know what I mean... Note to the guy waiting for his best friend's wife to put his friend in the hospital or the cemetery - don't be so eager to move into a ready-made family. There are always two sides to any story... look long and hard before you jump into another man's shoes. there may be a reason why your friend was keeping company with two wives and two families...

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